

image  
202  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>



Wid '10  
McFARLANE  
100



**Todd McFarlane and Will Carlton**  
Plot

**WILL CARLTON**  
WRITER

**SZYMON KUDRANSKI**  
ARTIST

**FCO PLASCENCIA** **TOM ORZECOWSKI**  
COLOR LETTERING

**PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN**

Jim appears as a guest on the Karlene Phillips Show, where a call in campaign proves unsuccessful in recovering information about his past. Later in the show, Jim is given the task of healing a boy with a rare disease. A reluctant Jim is moved by the boy's mother's plea, and heals the once mute child. For the first time, Jim feels like he's using his powers for good.

Earlier that morning, an overzealous police officer reroutes Jim to a known felon's apartment to settle some business. Urging Jim to stay in the car, the officer pays a visit to the felon, who ends up being his ally. An inquisitive Jim walks in on the two arguing over the delivery of a briefcase, and new villain Bludd intervenes. He reveals the briefcase holds answers to Jim's past, and he intends on keeping it until he's able to control Spawn and his powers.

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**Todd McFarlane**  
**FCO Plascencia**  
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Editor

**image**   
**TODD McFARLANE**  
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**SPAWN.COM**

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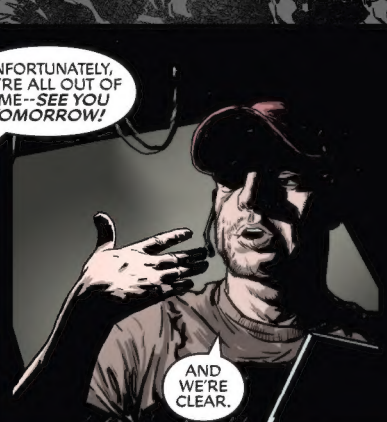
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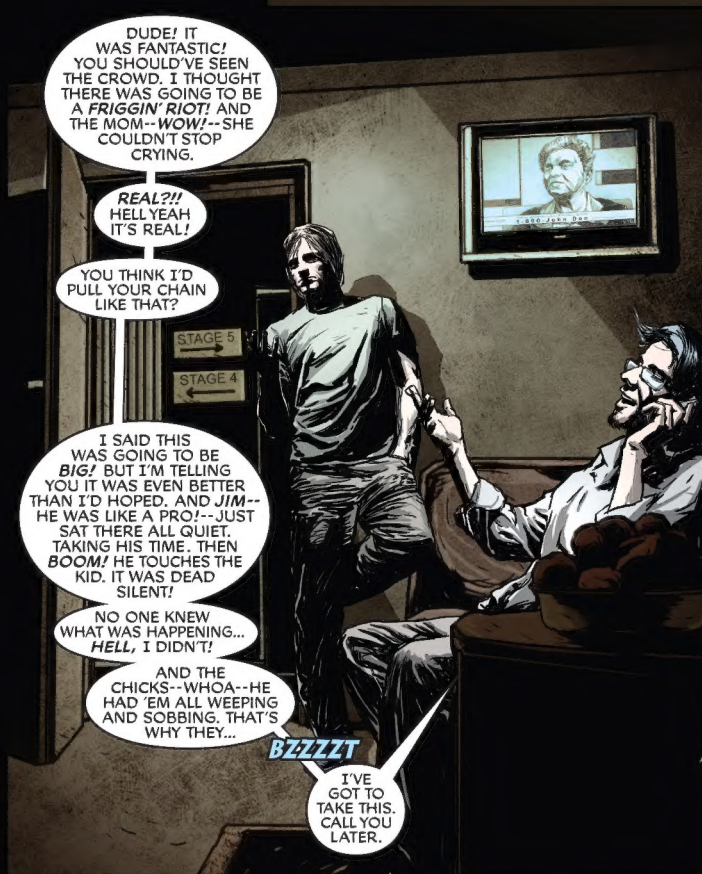
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP  
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP  
CLAP CLAP CLAP



Backstage.







DUDE! IT WAS FANTASTIC! YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE CROWD. I THOUGHT THERE WAS GOING TO BE A FRIGGIN' RIOT! AND THE MOM--WOW!--SHE COULDN'T STOP CRYING.

REAL?!!  
HELLYEAH  
IT'S REAL!

YOU THINK I'D  
PULL YOUR CHAIN  
LIKE THAT?

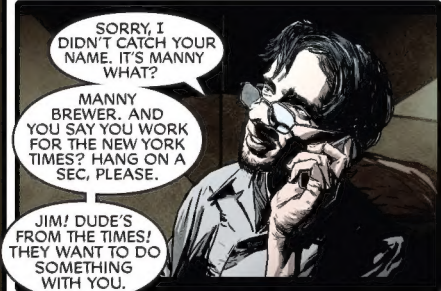
I SAID THIS  
WAS GOING TO BE  
*BIG*! BUT I'M TELLING  
YOU IT WAS EVEN BETTER  
THAN I'D HOPED. AND JIM--  
HE WAS LIKE A PRO!--JUST  
SAT THERE ALL QUIET,  
TAKING HIS TIME. THEN  
BOOM! HE TOUCHES THE  
KID. IT WAS DEAD  
SILENT!

NO ONE KNEW  
WHAT WAS HAPPENING...  
HELL, I DIDN'T!

AND THE  
CHICKS--WHOA--HE  
HAD 'EM ALL WEEPING  
AND SOBBING. THAT'S  
WHY THEY...

**BZZZZT**

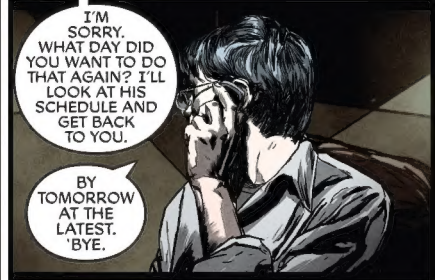
I'VE  
GOT TO  
TAKE THIS.  
CALL YOU  
LATER.



SORRY, I  
DIDN'T CATCH YOUR  
NAME. IT'S MANNY  
WHAT?

MANNY  
BREWER. AND  
YOU SAY YOU WORK  
FOR THE NEW YORK  
TIMES? HANG ON A  
SEC, PLEASE.

JIM! DUDE'S  
FROM THE TIMES!  
THEY WANT TO DO  
SOMETHING  
WITH YOU.



I'M  
SORRY.  
WHAT DAY DID  
YOU WANT TO DO  
THAT AGAIN? I'LL  
LOOK AT HIS  
SCHEDULE AND  
GET BACK TO  
YOU.

BY  
TOMORROW  
AT THE  
LATEST.  
'BYE.



NO  
WAY!



LOOK  
AT THIS,  
JIM.  
FORTY-  
SEVEN  
TEXTS!

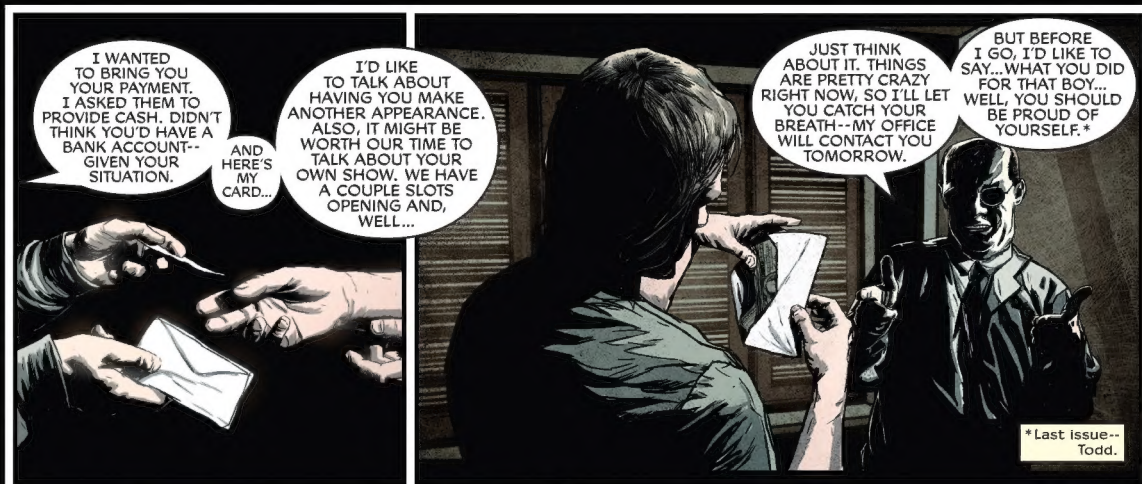
**KNOCK  
KNOCK**



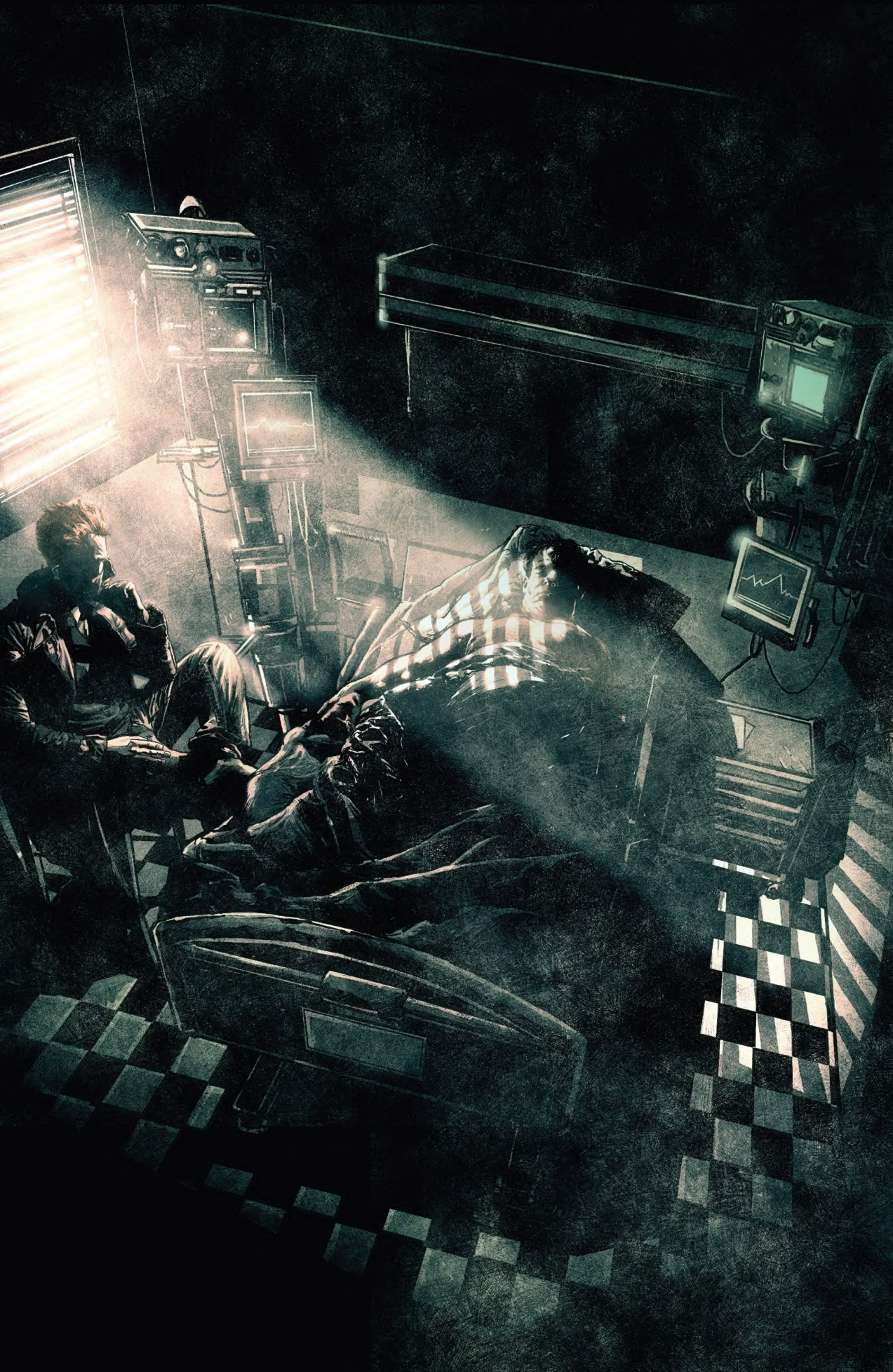
EXCUSE ME,  
MR. DOWNING, I'M THE  
STUDIO'S LEAD EXECUTIVE.  
I WANT TO THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
TODAY.

IT WAS  
MY PLEASURE.  
THANKS FOR  
HAVING ME.













twitch...?

I'M  
HERE,  
SAM.



how long  
have I been  
sleeping?



NINE OR  
TEN HOURS.  
DOCTORS HAD  
YOU PRETTY  
MEDICATED.



SAID THEY  
NEEDED TO  
STABILIZE YOU  
BEFORE THEY  
COULD RUN  
MORE TESTS.

HOW YOU  
FEELING  
ANYWAY?

[great.]

GOOD.  
NOW I WANT  
THE TRUTH.



the  
pain...



It's--I  
don't know  
what's  
happening,  
but I--I'm  
not going to  
make it,  
twitch, the  
pain's too  
incredible.

and it's  
getting  
worse.



DON'T  
TALK  
LIKE  
THAT.



WE'VE  
BEEN  
THROUGH  
WORSE  
THAN  
THIS.



not this  
time,  
something's  
different.

something  
doesn't feel  
right. I should  
have listened  
to you--nagging  
me about my  
eating  
habits.

SAM...



THIS ISN'T  
YOUR FAULT. YOU  
HEAR ME? IT'S MINE.  
I DID THIS TO YOU--  
THIS HAS NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
YOUR DIET.

I--  
SOMETHING  
WEIRD HAPPENED  
NEAR THAT BUILDING  
COLLAPSE. SO I  
NEED YOU TO HANG  
IN THERE 'TIL I  
FIGURE OUT  
HOW TO UNDO  
THIS.\*

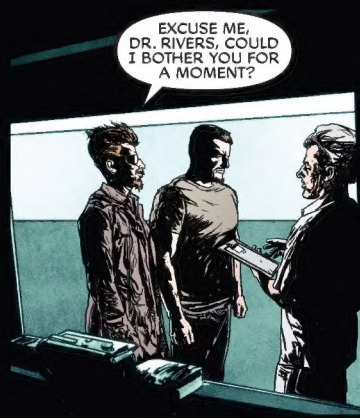
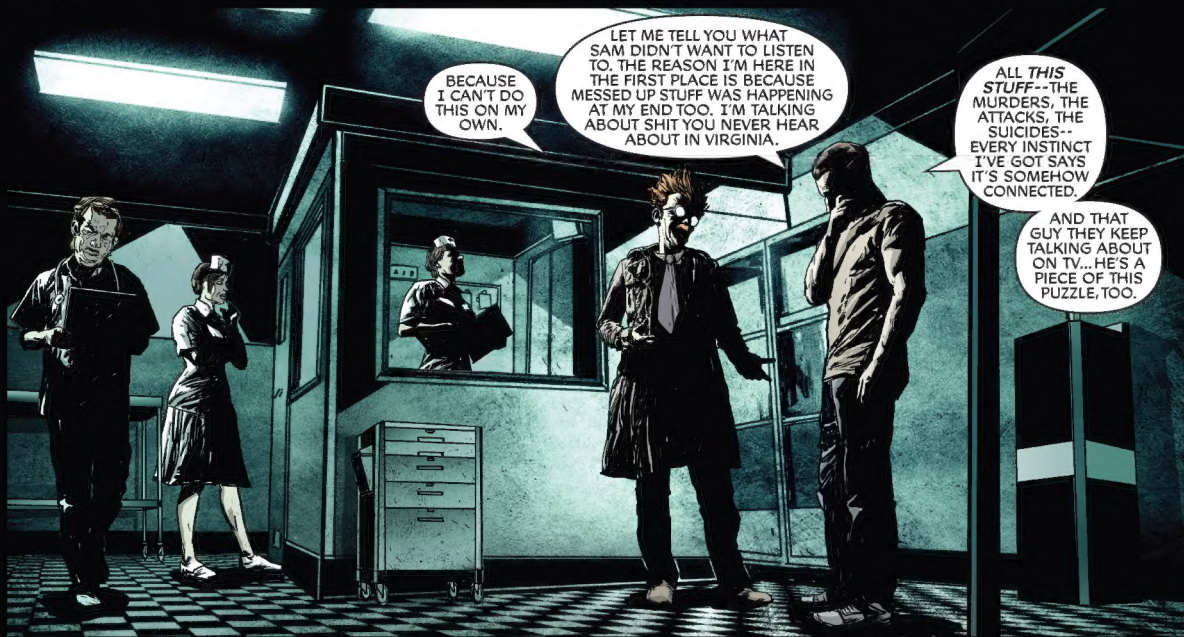


\*Issue 199--Todd

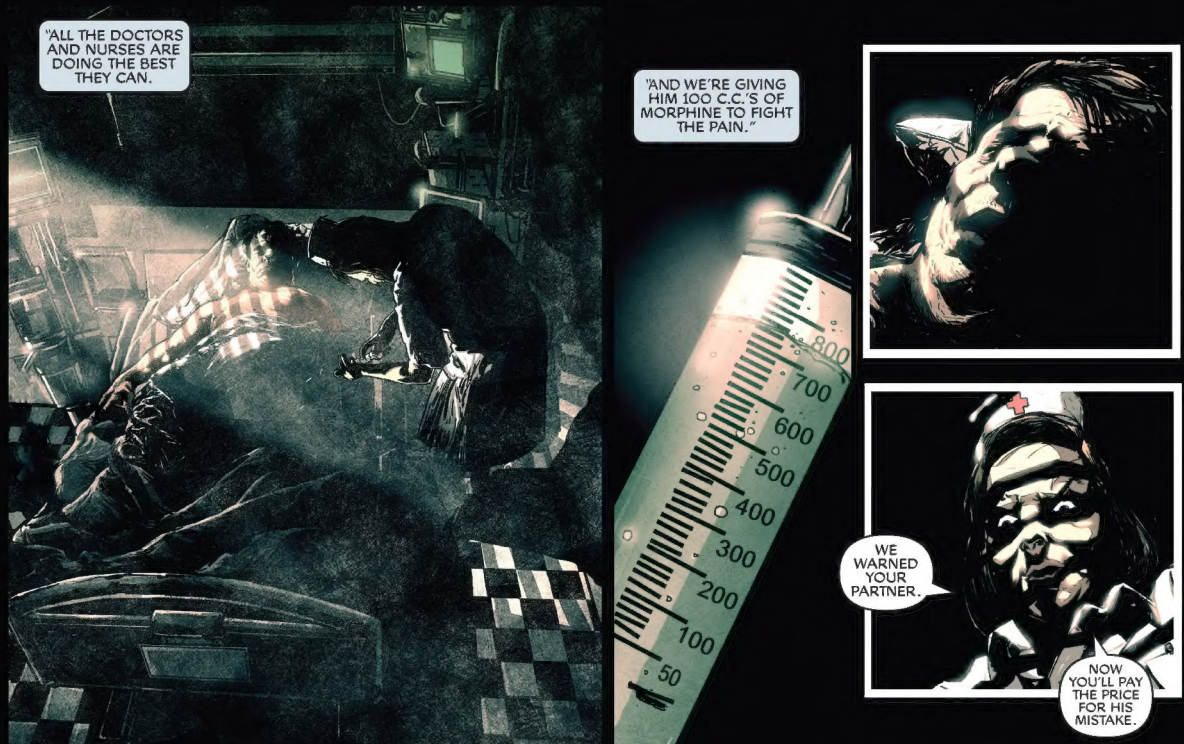
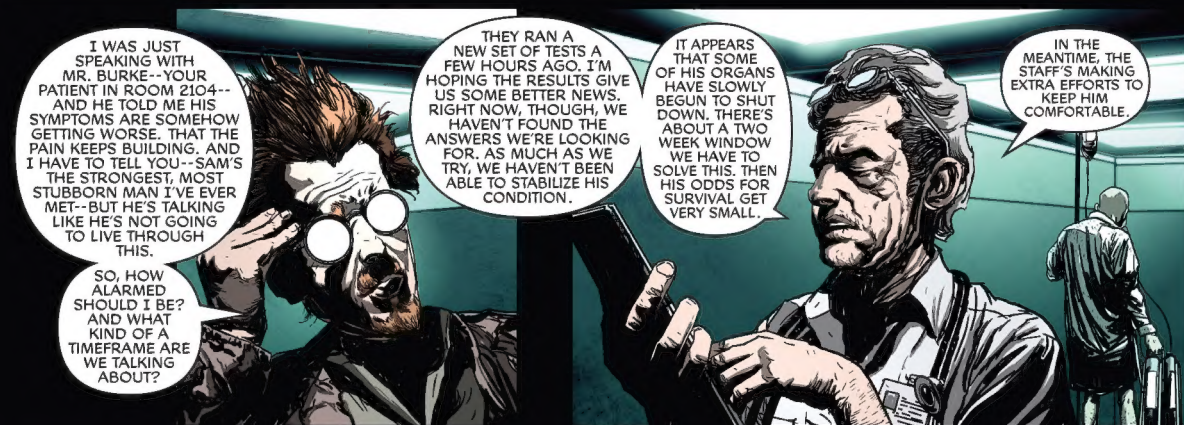


NOW YOU  
GET SOME  
REST. I'LL BE  
RIGHT  
OUTSIDE.













I DON'T  
NEED  
GLASSES  
ANY-  
MORE!\*

YOU'RE  
KIDDING!  
HOW'S THAT  
POSSIBLE?

IT'S JIM. I KEEP  
TELLING YOU WHAT  
HE CAN DO. I MEAN  
LOOK AT THE EMAILS  
I'M GETTING! EVERY-  
ONE WANTS A PIECE  
OF HIM.

YEP, OUR  
LIVES ARE ABOUT TO  
GET CRAZY.

WELL,  
BEFORE  
THAT  
HAPPENS,  
MAYBE  
YOU AND  
I NEED A  
LITTLE  
NAKED  
TIME TO-  
GETHER.

NOW?

I'M  
WORKING.  
I NEED TO  
SORT  
THROUGH  
ALL THESE  
REQUESTS.

IS--IS  
THAT ONE  
FROM THE  
OPRAH  
SHOW?!

IF I DON'T  
CONFIRM A  
FEW OF THESE  
THEY'LL PULL  
THEIR OFFERS.  
AND SOME ARE  
PRETTY BIG.  
EVEN HAVE A  
SPONSORSHIP  
OFFER.

I GUESS  
I'LL JUST  
NEED TO  
DISTRACT  
YOU  
THEN.

\*See last  
issue--Todd

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT *THIS*  
OFFER?

IMPRESSIVE.

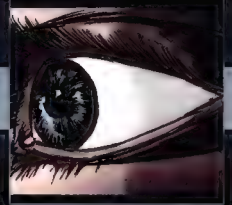
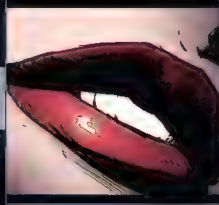
BUT C'MON,  
SUSAN. GIVE ME  
A COUPLE OF  
HOURS AND I'LL  
BE ALL YOURS.

REALLY?  
YOU'RE TURNING  
THIS DOWN?

DON'T GET MAD.

FORGET IT!  
DO WHAT YOU  
WANT! I'LL JUST  
WATCH SOME TV  
INSTEAD!



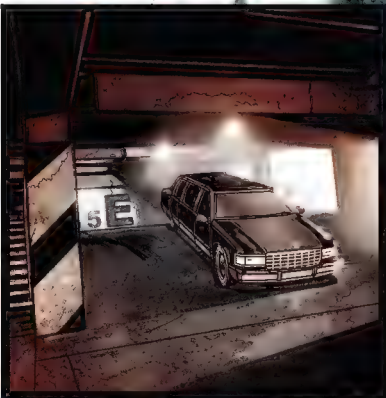




The next day,











SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?  
THEY OCCUPY THIS WHOLE BUILDING.

NOT TOO SHABBY.

THAT STATUE'S A BIT MELODRAMATIC THOUGH, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

NOT REALLY. A BUNCH OF THESE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS LIKE TO HAVE UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE. IT'S GOOD FOR BRANDING THEIR NAMES.

I'M WITH SECURITY. YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT CAN FOLLOW ME.

HE'S NOT MY ASSISTANT. HE'S MY--MANAGER.

NICE HOW YOU'RE IGNORING THE PAPARAZZI. YOU'RE GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT THIS.

MR. DOWNING?

uh... LIKE HE SAID, I'M HIS MANAGER. HERE'S MY CREDENTIALS. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MR. RAMUS HIMSELF.

YES. HE'S BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

WHAT DID YOU SAY THIS COMPANY DOES?

LOTS OF THINGS. DEFENSE CONTRACTING. INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. HUMANITARIAN BRANCHES IN FIVE OR SIX COUNTRIES. PLUS, THEY OWN A BUNCH OF FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES.

HOW DO YOU THINK HE AFFORDS ALL THE ARTIFACTS IN HERE?

I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS STUFF. THERE'S SOME HISTORICAL PIECES HERE.

ANYWAY, THEY CALLED AND WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT BEING A SPOKESMAN FOR ONE OF THEIR DIVISIONS. DIDN'T SAY WHICH ONE, BUT THEY'RE ALL HIGH PROFILE.

YOU MUST'VE HEARD ABOUT THE RAMUS CORPORATION BEFORE YOUR COMA. THEY'RE IN THE NEWS ALL THE TIME. IF WE CAN NAIL THIS DEAL IT'LL SET YOU UP FOR...

JESUS!

YOU THINK THAT WAS EXPENSIVE?

GENTLEMEN...

...THANK YOU FOR COMING ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I HOPE WE DIDN'T INCONVENIENCE EITHER OF YOU.

NO. NO-- WE'RE HAPPY TO BE HERE.

I'M MARC, AND THIS IS JIM DOWNING.

HELLO, MR. RAMUS, IT'S...

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

WHAT?!

I WE JUST GOT HERE!

I KNOW THAT GUY! HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

HOW DO YOU KNOW RAMUS?

HE'S RIGHT, MR. DOWNING. YOU MUST HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE. BUT MAYBE IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF WE WERE TO SPEAK ALONE. MARC, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING US A FEW MINUTES? I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS SOME THINGS WITH MR. DOWNING PRIVATELY.

OKAY.

I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE. GIVE ME A SHOUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JIM.





THE  
CASE.  
WHERE  
IS  
IT?\*

\*See last Issue--Todd



ALL IN DUE  
TIME, MR.  
DOWNING.

ALL  
IN DUE  
TIME.



YOUR  
TRANSFORMATIONS  
SEEM TO BE COMING MUCH  
EASIER. EXCELLENT! THAT  
MEANS YOU'RE BEGINNING  
TO ACCEPT WHAT YOU'VE  
BECOME. THE MORE TIMES  
YOU USE THE POWER--  
THE MORE ADDICTED YOU  
BECOME TO IT.

SHUT  
UP!



gurk!

WHAT NOW?  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO KILL ME? I  
DON'T THINK  
SO.

**LOOK UP THERE!!**  
ANYTHING YOU DO WILL BE  
CAPTURED ON SECURITY CAMERAS.  
COMBINE THAT WITH THE FACT I HAD  
THE MEDIA WAITING IN MY LOBBY.  
THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE. THINK HOW  
TRAGIC IT'D BE FOR PEOPLE TO FIND  
OUT THEIR NEW SAVIOR IS ALSO  
A MURDERER.

BESIDES--  
YOU LIKE THE FAME THEY'RE  
GIVING YOU--DON'T YOU? I  
SAW IT IN YOUR EYES. YOU'RE  
BECOMING ADDICTED TO  
THAT TOO.





NEW YORK'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICIALS HAVE YET TO RELEASE A STATEMENT REGARDING LAST WEEK'S UNEXPECTED BUILDING COLLAPSE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE. SOURCES CLOSE TO THE SCENE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE ALLEGED PERPETRATOR, A MYSTERIOUS SUPER-BEING, WAS STILL ALIVE AS HE WAS EXTRACTED FROM THE SITE, WHICH WAS THOROUGHLY DEMOLISHED DURING THE ATTACK. TONS OF RUBBLE SEPARATED THIS ENHANCED-ABILITY SURVIVOR FROM HIS EVENTUAL RESCUERS.

FEMA, THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, IS ON HAND, BUT ARE WITHHOLDING COMMENT PENDING A FULL INVESTIGATION.

CONFLICTING STORIES, SUBSTANTIATED TO VARYING DEGREES BY EYEWITNESSES, HAVE PINPOINTED A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL AS THE TARGET OF THE ATTACK. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM HIS IDENTITY.



AS SOME OF OUR VIEWERS MAY BE AWARE, **JIM DOWNING**, THE APPARENT TARGET OF THAT GREENWICH VILLAGE **STRUCTURAL FAILURE**, WAS RECENTLY A GUEST ON KARLENE PHILLIPS' MORNING SHOW. HIS APPEARANCE CAME JUST DAYS AFTER THE ATTACK, AND HE **HIMSELF** SEEMED NONE THE WORSE FOR THE EXPERIENCE, THOUGH HIS **WARDROBE** HAD YET TO RECOVER. PRIOR TO THE SHOW, THE USUAL UNVERIFIED SOURCES TIED HIM TO THE "**MIRACULOUS**" RECOVERIES OF OVER A DOZEN OF HIS FELLOW PATIENTS IN THE FORMER HOSPITAL, PATIENTS SUFFERING A **WIDE RANGE** OF UNRELATED ILLNESSES. OUR MR. DOWNING IS **NOTHING** IF NOT **AMBITIOUS!**

MS. PHILLIPS WAS THE **FIRST** NETWORK TALKER TO INTERVIEW HIM, AND HER NEW YORK-BASED SHOW CENTERED MOSTLY ON THESE **RUMORED ABILITIES**. THE CLIMAX OF THE SHOW CAUSED **QUITE** A STIR, AND LED CRITICS TO QUESTION THE **VALIDITY** OF THE PRESENTATION.

A TROUBLED NATION OF VIEWERS NO DOUBT SITS READY TO SEE SOME SMALL MIRACLES OF THEIR OWN. NO TIME LIKE THE **PRESENT**, MR. DOWNING!



**WHAT A CROCK!!** AND THAT'S PUTTING IT **MILDLY!**

KARLENE PHILLIPS HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY **SHAMELESS** IN HER DRIVE TO SPIKE HER RATINGS, AND HER **DOZENS** OF VIEWERS HAVE BEEN TREATED TO COUNTLESS **FREAKS** AND **JACKWAGONS** DURING HER MANY DECADES ON THE AIR. ADVANCING AGE HAS **NOT** BLINDED HER, THOUGH, TO THE POSSIBILITIES IN A MAN WITH NO **PAST LIFE** THAT ANYONE CAN TELL US ABOUT... **INCLUDING HIS DOCTORS!!...** WHO SUDDENLY WAKES FROM A TWO-DECADE COMA. OF **COURSE** SHE HAILS HIM WITH A "COME TO JESUS" SESSION! HER NURSING HOME DEMOGRAPHIC HAS WAITED **YEARS** FOR A MIRACLE MAN TO MEND THINGS THEIR DOCTORS CAN'T FIX! THE **HIPPIE LIBERAL BLOGGERS**, MEANWHILE, ARE **ALREADY** ANOINTING HIM AS THE **SECOND COMING**. IF HE'S SO **HOT**, HOW 'BOUT HE DOES SOMETHING WITH THE LOUSY **JOB RECOVERY** STATS?

NEXT TIME HE'S ON KARLENE'S SHOW YOU CAN **BET** HE'S GOING TO ASK FOR **DONATIONS** TO PAY HIS **RENT!** HEY, **FAITH HEALER!** GET A **JOB!** MAKE A **REAL** MIRACLE AND GIVE **EVERYONE** A JOB!



GO ON!  
**KILL ME!**  
RIGHT HERE--  
RIGHT NOW!  
GIVE IN TO  
YOUR  
DESIRES!

YOU FEEL IT,  
DON'T YOU? THE  
**BLOOD LUST** WELLING  
UP INSIDE YOU-- CRAVING  
TO BE RELEASED! THAT'S  
BECAUSE YOUR COSTUME  
KNOWS THAT WITH EVERY  
DEATH BY YOUR  
HANDS, **IT** BECOMES  
STRONGER.

THAT'S RIGHT...YOUR SUIT!  
IT'S ALIVE AND IT **THINKS!**  
IT UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU'RE  
MEANT TO BE.

THAT  
YOU'RE **MORE**  
VAMPIRE THAN  
I'LL EVER BE!

**NO!**

**KRASH**

**CRACK**

**CHKK**

um...EXCUSE ME...  
YOU HEARING WHAT  
I'M HEARING?

SHOULDN'T  
WE...

I DON'T  
HEAR A  
THING.

this  
is  
nuts.





THINK ABOUT IT-- WHAT TIME HAS IT BEEN DURING EACH TRANSFORMATION INTO SPAWN?

NIGHTFALL EVERY TIME IT'S BEEN NIGHTFALL!



BUT I SEE YOU'RE STILL SKEPTICAL...



THEN LET ME PROVE MY POINT.

SISHH

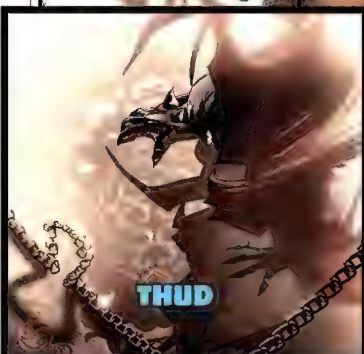


LIKE ME-- YOU HAVE A LOW TOLERANCE FOR *DIRECT SUNLIGHT*. IT WON'T KILL US--MUCH AS THE HUMANS LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT THAT--BUT IT DOES MAKE US WEAKER.

OUR BREATHING BECOMES CONSTRICTED. OUR VEINS TIGHTEN. THEN WE LOSE OUR BALANCE BEFORE COLLAPSING TO THE GROUND.



IT HURTS, DOESN'T IT?



THUD



AND BEFORE YOU TRY DENYING IT AGAIN...



YOUR VAMPIRE BLOOD LUST HAS ALREADY BEGUN. HASN'T IT?

THWAP

NEW YORK CLARION  
MIDTOWN MURDER





THOUGH YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS, DO YOU? ALL YOU'RE REALLY AFTER IS YOUR PAST IDENTITY--AND THE BRIEFCASE I TOOK CONTAINED WHAT YOU'RE SO DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR.

WHICH IS WHY YOU'LL CONTINUE TO SERVE ME.



SO--YOU WANT THE CASE? TAKE IT!

BUT THERE'S A CATCH.

I'VE EMPTIED THE CASE'S CONTENTS EXCEPT FOR ONE CLUE TO YOUR PAST. IF YOU CONTINUE TO BEHAVE YOURSELF, I WILL--FROM TIME TO TIME--GIVE YOU ANOTHER PIECE OF YOUR PAST. AND SLOWLY YOU'LL DISCOVER WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

OR SHOULD I SAY... WERE.

NOW GET UP! AND GET THE HELL OUT OF MY SIGHT. YOU'RE MAKING ME SICK!



**SLAM**



JIM?

WAIT... JIM!?



DID YOU GET THE DEAL? DID HE OFFER YOU A CONTRACT OR WHAT? AND WHAT THE HECK WAS ALL THAT BANGING INSIDE?

YOU DIDN'T BREAK SOME MORE OF HIS STUFF DID YOU?

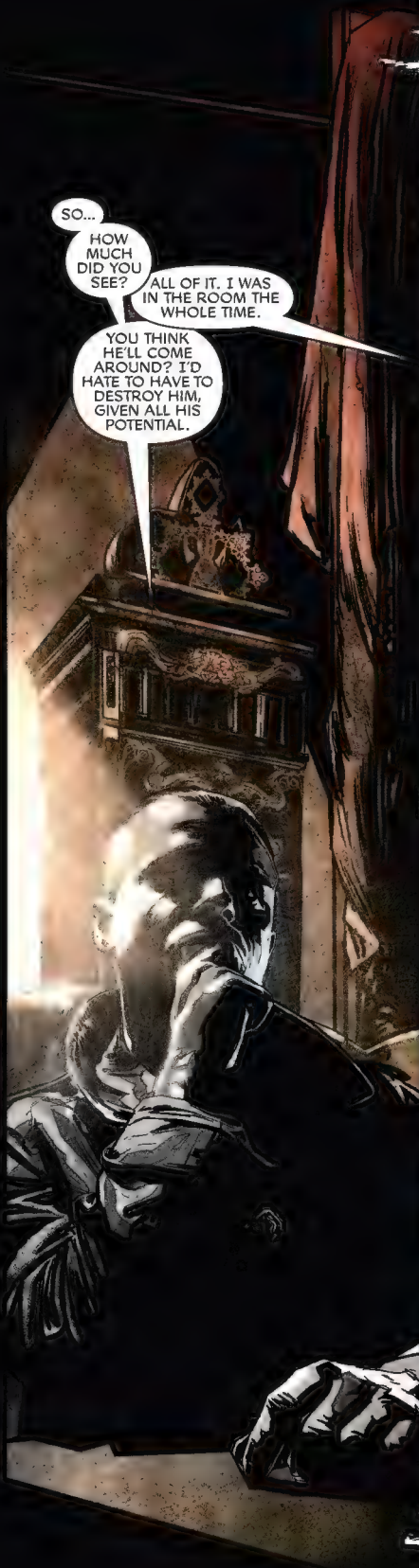
I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR, WE DON'T NEED TO DISCUSS THIS ANYMORE.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME. I NEED YOU TO BOOK ME ON MORE SHOWS OR GET ME MORE INTERVIEWS--SO I CAN STOCKPILE SOME MONEY TO GET MY OWN APARTMENT, WHERE I CAN BE BY MYSELF.

IF I'M GOING TO EXPOSE MYSELF TO THE PUBLIC I'M GOING TO NEED THE TIME TO DO THINGS ON MY OWN.







SO...

HOW MUCH DID YOU SEE?

ALL OF IT. I WAS IN THE ROOM THE WHOLE TIME.

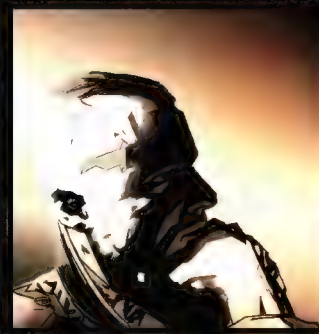
YOU THINK HE'LL COME AROUND? I'D HATE TO HAVE TO DESTROY HIM, GIVEN ALL HIS POTENTIAL.

I STILL THINK IT'S FIFTY-FIFTY, WHICH IS WHY I'M TRYING NOT TO PUSH TOO FAST. DON'T NEED HIM GETTING SUSPICIOUS.

SEEMS TO BE WORKING SO FAR.



GOTTA GIVE YOU CREDIT, THOUGH-- THAT CURTAIN TRICK--VERY EFFECTIVE! YOU'RE QUITE THE SHOWMAN.



WHAT'S YOUR READ ON HIM?

I FELT IT--HIS POWER. IT'S STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT. AND WHEN THE COSTUME FINALLY TAKES CONTROL OF HIM, WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE. THERE WON'T BE ANY STOPPING IT.

WHICH MAKES YOUR PLAN OF CONTROLLING THE SPAWN NOW--MUCH MORE URGENT.

HE'S THE CATALYST THAT WE'VE BOTH BEEN LOOKING FOR. WHICH IS WHY I NEEDED TO GIVE HIM A REASON...





"...TO  
COME  
BACK TO  
US."



TAP  
TAP

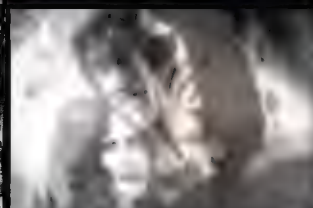
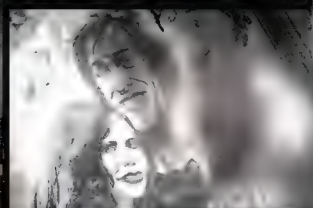
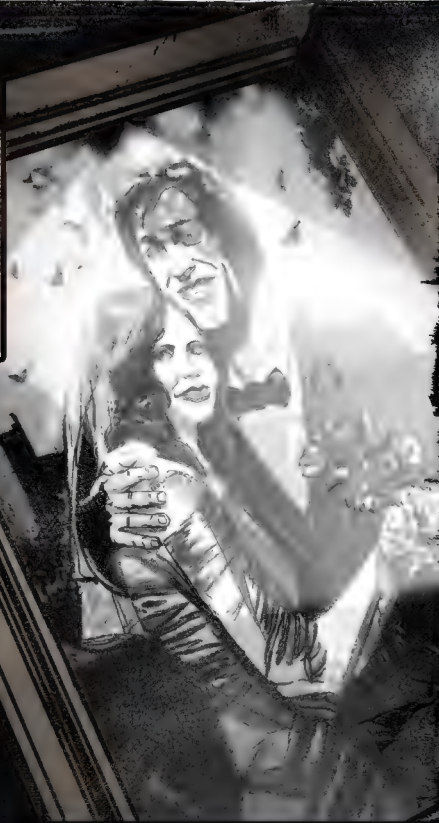
WANTED  
TO WISH  
YOU A GOOD  
NIGHT'S  
SLEEP.



THANKS.  
YOU,  
TOO.



KLIK



I'M  
MARRIED?







## SPAWNING GROUND

letterspage@mcfarlane.com  
P.O. Box 12230  
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

Hi everyone,

We wanted to utilize this Spawning Ground to clarify a revelation from *Spawn* 200. In Jim's forgotten memory sequence, he encounters Al, and they have a long conversation regarding Jim's intentions.

At the end of this scene, Al disappears leaving Jim confused as to what lesson he needed to teach the others. On this page, a crucial word balloon was dropped. While we hope our hardcore fan base saw the connection to *Spawn* 185 and Al's suicide with the final word balloon on the page, we know it might have been ambiguous for new readers.

Therefore, we wanted to clear up any confusion by revisiting the scene from both 200 and 185 respectively.

Jen Cassidy

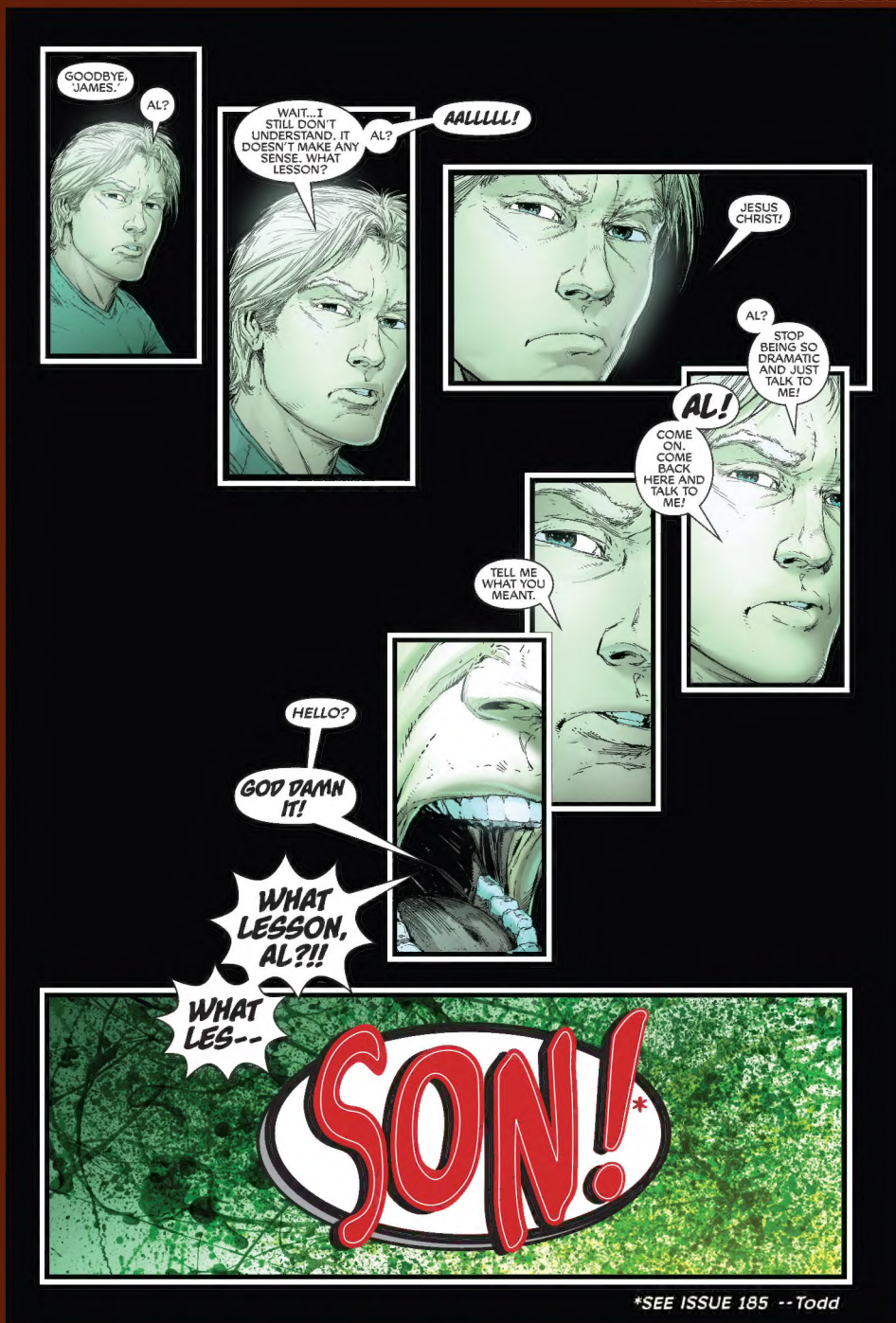
Managing Editor





## SPAWNING GROUND

PAGE FROM SPAWN 200:





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P.O. Box 12230  
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**PAGE FROM SPAWN 185:**



**NEXT ISSUE**

Jim Downing learns he has a lineage connection to both Clown and Bludd. This puts him in a coveted group aptly named the "Unholy Trinity".

\*Note: Cover subject to change





Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE